Rome Sat Nov 29. 1862

My dear Tom

You'll be anxious about me & that I have but a snatch of time to give you my news - Sad Limbago & to the cache laid me up all october but most kindly left me on the arrival of the Prince of Wales, & that on H.R.H. first visit I was able to pay my respects he received with great kindness & told he thought I must have such great pleasure in returning to Rome - During the day General Knollys came with the Royal request that I was to dine with the Prince at 7 - It was a fine party of 16 & I was very pleased that the post of honour on the Princes right hand was mine, with the charming Princess Royal on H.R.H's left so I had them both in most agreable conversation all dinner - the Princess greatly paid me with the warmest compliments on my dear daughter Mary, extending to me as her artistic father - This was also the case with the Prince of Wales who was most kind in making me feel at home - of course I had great information on the subjects of conversation about Rome - The Princess has passed in her lovely Scotch manners any woman I ever knew so simple, so cheerful & so amiable that

I was carried off my feet – the Prince crowned me
with some diamond regrets which I am so
fortunate as to be able to execute Lettr Russell
tells that they will place me higher in the
favour of Her Majesty – Whilst the Prince
was here the Pope ordered the English Ladies
who had been to visit Garibaldi to be expelled
from Rome – and on my visit to Cardinale
Antonelli I was so fortunate as to get this
hard sentence reversed – I assumed that our
Ladies always have a fashionable hobby &
must now it happens this hero of Romance
& so I have saved 8 Ladies now here & one
on her way – This affair got me great credit
at the Royal table. – Only when I am ill
I feel lonely, but the number of visits during
the day, leave me contented with my lone
dinner when it occurs as I might dine out
every day – Next Despatch I say I shall bring
you a longer letter so pardon this hasty scrawl
I with my love to all your charming dear ones
not forgetting dear Marie, believe me ever
Your affectionate brother
Joe
Don't let this out of your hand, for 'tis private to
your own dear selves

enemies, hungering for my place, & I strive
to make myself worthy by doing | active
daily good & no idea exists how old I am
May God preserve me thus for awhile is my
prayer for I feel humble gratitude for
the many blessings which have fallen
so mercifully to me – that I had to
depend on my painting I would have
been a hard task for the misery is
great amongst the artists here there
being such scanty patronage –

I hope you are well & that you see
Tom this sometimes, to whom I sent
a letter which will interest you as do
it about my meeting the P. of Wales
& Princess Royal

Good bye & may God bless you

Your affectionate brother

Joe